

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 07427 01 OF 02 050056Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00
CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05 OES-07
OMB-01 AGRE-00 /067 W
-----022264 050131Z /73

P 050049Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0044
DEAHQS WASHDC PRIORITY
CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
ALL CONSULATES MEXICO BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 07427

DEA MEX 0443
DEAHQS FOR ENOL, EN, IG

EO:11652:N/A
TAGS:SNAR/MX
SUBJECT: GOM ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION ACTIVITY REPORT
APRIL 22 THROUGH APRIL 28, FIELD OPERATIONS THROUGH
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1978.

1. GOM ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION STATISTICS FOR THE
SEVENTEENTH WEEK OF 1978 ARE OUTLINED BELOW.
FIGURES IN PARENTHESIS REFLECT CUMULATIVE TOTAL EFFEC-
TIVE DECEMBER 1977.

ERADICATION	APRIL 22-28			
ZONES	5-9	3-4	1-2	TOTAL
A. POPPY FIELDS	181	0	70	251 (14,937)
B. HECTARES	18.35	0	20.05	38.40(1198.40)
C. MARIHUANA FIELDS	2	0	44	46 (1,811)
D. HECTARES	.2750	0	2.68	2.96(358.96)
E. MIXED FIELDS	0	0	0	0 (106)

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 07427 01 OF 02 050056Z

F. HECTARES 0 0 U (10)

INTERDICTION	APRIL 22-28	
-	TOTAL THIS PERIOD	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
A. KG. HEROIN	.250	57.295
B. KG. OPIUM	18.400	233.451
C. KG. OPIUM SEED	.650	58.264

D. HEROIN LABS	0	8
E. KG. COCAINE	0	33.25
F. KG. MARIHUANA	3383.108	240,053.108
G. KG. MARIHUANA SEEDS	8	772.897
H. KG. HASHISH	.225	59.875
I. LITERS HASHISH OIL	0	.250
J. KG. PEYOTE	0	11.85
K. D.U. DANGEROUS DRUGS	0	1,511,105
L. ARRESTS-MEXICAN	66	1,765
M. ARRESTS-U.S.	0	63
N. ARRESTS-OTHER	0	11
O. VEHICLES	4	277
P. WEAPONS	6	680
Q. AMMUNITION	512	27,872
R. PESOS	0	433,399
S. DOLLARS	0	22,942
T. AIRCRAFT	0	23

2. DEA TERMINATED ITS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE ERADICATION PROGRAM ON APRIL 10, 1978, UPON COMPLETING THE GROUND TRUTH EXERCISE. AVAILABLE REPORTS INDICATE 207 POPPY FIELDS WERE DESTROYED DURING THE PERIOD APRIL 21-26 ALL IN ZONE 06. THE TOTAL POPPY FIELD DESTRUCTION FOR THIS REPORTING PERIOD INDICATES AN INCREASE OF 18 PERCENT OVER SIMILAR PERIOD LAST YEAR.

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 07427 01 OF 02 050056Z

3. FIELD OPERATIONS:

A. ZONE 01, OAXACA: AG EXECUTIVE OFFICER BAEZA NOTIFIED EMBASSY ON MAY 3, ON THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THE RESULTS OF MARIHUANA SPRAYING TESTS WITH COLOR ADDITIVE. HE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ON THE EXTENT OF APPEASEMENT AS ILLEGAL MARIHUANA SMOKERS COULD STILL VOICE COMPLAINTS ON THE AFFECTS OF RHODAMINE-B IF THE GOM DECIDED TO USE THE COLORING AGENT EXTENSIVELY. BAEZA PROVIDED EMBASSY A COPY OF THE REPORT PREPARED BY HIS ZONE COORDINATOR.

B. ZONE 06, CULIACAN: THE JOINT EVALUATION/VERIFICATION TEAM WILL TERMINATE THEIR ROTARY WING FLIGHT MISSIONS ON FRIDAY, MAY 5. JOINT TEAMS HAVE FLOWN A TOTAL OF SIXTEEN SECTORS WHICH COVERED THE CRITICAL AREAS SOUTH OF TOPIA (SECTORS 85, 103, 116, 118, 119 AND 139), THE AREAS AROUND SAN JOSE DEL LLANO (SECTORS 48, 69, 71, 72, 74, 75, 76, AND 77) AND THE AREAS NORTHWEST OF CHOIX (49 AND 50). SECTORS 72 AND 74 REVEALED A TOTAL OF 75 POPPY FIELDS WITH OVER HALF THE PLANTS IN PETAL STAGE. THE GROUND INSPECTIONS INDICATED 25 PERCENT WERE SCORED AND FIFTY PERCENT WERE TEST-SCORED. THE AVERAGE SIZE OF THE

FIELDS WAS APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF ACRE WHICH EXCEEDS THE AVERAGE FOR THIS CAMPAIGN. THE EXPLANATION PROVIDED BY AG OBSERVORS INDICATED THE AREA (BABORIGAME) WAS NOT COVERED BY VERIFICATION FLIGHTS AFTER THE SPRAYING OPERATIONS APPROXIMATELY 30 TO 40 DAYS AGO. TEAM NOW FINDING MARIHUANA IN THE SECTORS AND DID NOT FIND EVIDENCE OF IRRIGATION WHICH LEADS TO BELIEF THAT CAMPESINOS ARE HAND-CARRYING WATER TO THE FIELDS.

C. ZONE 08, TIJUANA: BAEZA CONFIRMED ON MAY 4 THAT AGUILAR GARZA, FORMER ZONE COORDINATOR AND SUPERVISOR FOR COORDINATORS, WAS TRANSFERRED TO ZONE 08 AS THE COORDINATOR. LIC. LOPEZ GARZA, FORMER DEPUTY TO AGUILAR GARZA, WAS

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 07427 02 OF 02 050102Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 07427

NAMED THE ZONE COORDINATOR FOR ZONE 06. BAEZA EXPLAINED THAT POLITICAL PRESSURES AS RESULT OF RECENT SHOOTING INCIDENT WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY TEAM MEMBER AND COMPLAINT FILED BY A LAWYER FRIEND OF THE GOVERNOR OF SINALOA ON HIS ALLEGED ABUSE AT THE HANDS OF THE FEDERAL POLICE LED TO THE DECISION. BAEZA EXPLAINED THAT GOVERNOR CALDERON ALSO HEADS THE POWERFUL FIVE MILLION MEMBER LABOR SECTOR OF THE PRI.

D. ZONE 10, MEXICO CITY: BAEZA CONFIRMED RECENT NEWSPAPER REPORTS PUBLICIZING THE RELEASE OF OVER 2,400 CAMPESINOS CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL CULTIVATION OF NARCOTIC PLANTS THROUGH OUTRIGHT DISMISSAL OF CHARGES BY THE AG OFFICE. PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO AUTHORIZED THE RELEASE

AFTER HE REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED A STUDY PREPARED BY AN INTERAGENCY GROUP DESIGNED TO ESTABLISH SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT PROJECTS IN THE AREAS WHERE ARRESTS TOOK PLACE.

4. TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

A. TELECOMMUNICATIONS: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS ON EQUIP-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 07427 02 OF 02 050102Z

MENT WERE PREPARED FOR THE MEXICO CITY VHF-FM OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE NETWORKS. THIS INCLUDES THE CENTRAL CONTROL FACILITY CONSOLES AND ALL OTHER RELATED ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT.

B. AVIATION OPERATIONS: A TOTAL OF FIVE 206-B PILOTS COMPLETED TRANSITION TRAINING TO MODEL 212 UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF AERO SERVICES INSTRUCTOR PILOTS. SIX 206-B QUALIFIED PILOTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR AERIAL SPRAYING CHECK OUT TRAINING ALSO CONDUCTED BY AERO SERVICES INSTRUCTOR PILOTS. EIGHT NEW PILOTS WERE HIRED DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN PILOT/AIRCRAFT RATIO AT ACCEPTABLE LEVEL.

C. MAINTENANCE: DURING THE EARLY MONTHS OF THE YEAR, OPERATIONS DID NOT ADHERE TO UTILIZATION SCHEDULES PROPOSED BY MAINTENANCE FOR THE FLEET WHICH RESULTED IN A SIGNIFICANT DROP IN AVAILABILITY FOR MONTH OF APRIL. AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY FOR FIXED WING FELL TO 60 PERCENT AND 50 PERCENT FOR ROTARY WING. EMBASSY TECHNICAL ADVISORS HAVE REPEATEDLY UNDERScoreD IMPORTANCE OF COORDINATION BETWEEN OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE TO AVOID A MAINTENANCE CRUNCH AT A GIVEN TIME. THE NEW OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR RECOGNIZES THE PROBLEM AND IS COMMITTED TO BETTER COORDINATE COMPLIANCE WITH THE SERVICES AS SCHEDULED.

5. HEROIN TRENDS IN THE U.S.

DEA ADMINISTRATOR'S WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 32, DATED APRIL 25, INDICATES THE AVERAGE HEROIN RETAIL PURITY LEVEL HIT A NEW LOW IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1978 OF 4.9 PERCENT, WHICH IS THE LOWEST HEROIN PURITY RECORDED SINCE THESE MEASUREMENT STATISTICS HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 07427 02 OF 02 050102Z

FURTHER SUBSTANTIATION OF THE PRESENT TREND IS REVEALED IN THE EPIC WEEKLY REPORT FOR APRIL 3, WHEREBY THE DEA

REGIONAL OFFICE IN LOS ANGELES REPORTS BROWN HEROIN PURITY LEVELS CONTINUE TO FALL FROM 5.5 PERCENT TO 4.2 PERCENT DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.
RD KIERE. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, DRUG CONTROL, CROP DESTRUCTION, DATA, HERBICIDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO07427
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780191-0587
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780589/aaaacxzd.tel
Line Count: 228
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2c7d3aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2779085
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOM ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION ACTIVITY REPORT APRIL 22 THROUGH APRIL 28, FIELD OPERATIONS THROUGH THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1978.
TAGS: SNAR, MX
To: STATE DEA
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2c7d3aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014